CLAIMS

1. An input support method in a communication-type navigation system in which a navigation apparatus and a server

5 system are connected via a communication network, the input support method comprising:

a first step of obtaining candidate characters for next input and the number of candidates pertaining to an input character string from the server system via the communication

10 network, and storing them into a cache memory provided in the navigation apparatus;

a second step of, at least when an input character string is updated at the navigation apparatus, searching the cache memory for candidate characters following the updated input

15 character string and the number of candidates pertaining to the updated input character string; and

a third step of, when the candidate characters following the updated input character string and the number of candidates pertaining to the updated character string have not been stored

20 in the cache memory as yet, transmitting the updated input character string to the server system.

2. The input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 1 further comprising:

a first step of obtaining candidate characters for next

25 input and the number of candidates pertaining to an input

character string from the server system via the communication network, and storing them into a cache memory provided in the navigation apparatus;

a fourth step of, when making the updated input character string, in place of taking the candidate characters following the updated input character string from the server system, taking a character by an input operation, and

a fifth step of correcting the updated input character string if necessary and showing it by display.

3. The input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 1, further comprising a sixth step of, when a response of candidate characters following the updated input character string is not received as a response from the server system in a predetermined period of time, transmitting again a request to search for the candidate characters and the number of candidates based on the updated input character string.

4. The input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 1, further comprising a seventh step of, when a response of the candidate characters following the updated input character string and the number of candidates pertaining to the updated input character string is belatedly received from the server system due to a communication delay, storing data of the belated candidate characters and the number of candidates into the cache memory.

5. The input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 1, further comprising an eighth step of, when a character has been already input to the updated character string, correcting the input character based on the response of the candidate characters and the number of candidate from the server system.

6. The input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 1, wherein the navigation apparatus makes an address search.

7. The input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 1, wherein the navigation apparatus makes a POI search.